

Stolle “Forever House”

721 West Avenue

1956

California Modern

**Status: Unrecognized
Significant Property**



This residence is a particularly fine representative example of a Forever House constructed in Fullerton Groves, a 1950s sub-division of California Modern homes designed by seminal Mid-Century Modern architects A. Quincy Jones and Frederick E. Emmons (Jones and Emmons). The house reflects the two architects’ goal of bringing modernism into America’s postwar suburbs. The then-groundbreaking architectural design of the modernist Forever House was a new and radical style of architecture in Fullerton.

Constructed in the third phase of the Fullerton Groves development, this house exhibits a simple, plain façade and an informal open interior. The residence incorporates classic elements associated with California Modern architecture, including post-and-beam construction, glass walls, metal-framed fixed windows, a covered carport, an open floor plan, sliding glass doors, and an integration of the outdoors into the overall design. While a number of houses in the Fullerton Groves development have been modified and altered over the years, this residence still retains a high degree of historic integrity. The exterior remains nearly intact, and the interior retains the majority of its original elements, still reflecting the modernism and high design that Jones and Emmons were seeking.

The Fullerton Groves residences, constructed between 1953 and 1956, represented a new, elegant design for moderately-priced housing in Fullerton. The award-winning Forever House brought sleek modernist homes at a modest price to Fullerton. The houses in the Fullerton Groves tracts were the first California Modern-styled homes constructed in Fullerton, and they are the only houses in the city that are designed by Jones and Emmons.

The house is named for Ernst and Vivian Stolle, the first owners of the property, who lived there for about a decade before moving to another home in Fullerton.